

**METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS UTILIZING AN ALTERNATIVE  
SPLICE VARIANT OF THE SIGMA-1 RECEPTOR**

**Abstract**

- 5           A new variant of the sigma-1 ( $\sigma_1$ )receptor is useful in screening compounds useful in the imaging and treatment of proliferative masses (*i.e.*, tumors). This new variant, named sigma- $1\beta$  ( $\sigma_{1\beta}$ ) finds particular use in the non-invasive diagnosis of cancer and more particularly in the diagnosis of proliferative cancer cells.